

City Council
Transportation
Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Thursday, March 23, 2006

Where: Milpitas City Hall, Committee Conference Room

Attendants: Mayor Jose Esteves, Vice Mayor Armando Gomez, Greg Armendariz, Dennis Carrington, Jaime Rodriguez

1. Call to Order

- The Transportation Subcommittee (Subcommittee) meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Forum

There were no members in the audience wishing to speak.

4. Approval of February Meeting Minutes*

- The Transportation Subcommittee approved the October meeting minutes.
M/S: Gomez/Esteves

5. Transit Area Plan*

- City Staff Dennis Carrington presented the Transit Area Plan Concept update, which was adopted by Council on April 8, 2006. Attached is the latest plan the City has developed with the consultant, Dyett and Bhatia (DB), after discussions with stakeholders and analysis. This new concept will be presented to the Council at the May 2, 2006 meeting.
 - Mr. Carrington shows the new concept would have 50 units per acre. DB recommends for every 1,000 square feet (sf) of residential built, 200 sf of retail should be built in the McCandless Drive/Montague Expressway and McCandless Drive/Great Mall Parkway area. Initially the number of dwelling units (du) in the area was 10,000; after analysis, it was lowered to 7,164 du maximum, and 5,100 du minimum.
 - Examples discussed were Bay Street at Emeryville and Santana Row in San Jose
 - In May, Council will consider the revised concept plan, directing changes, and staff will return with an approved plan, starting the environmental review process, specific plan, various zone categories, mixed use categories, and various design guidelines.
 - Mr. Carrington went onto discuss the Piper Drive and Montague Expressway area, adjacent to the Mills Property-Great Mall. North of Montague Expressway on Piper Drive, there are railroad spurs going through that area with a wye bisecting the area in order for the freight trains to travel to serve the existing businesses. In order to develop the area as described in the Transit Area Plan, the wye must be relocated north or removed entirely. Staff is in discussions with the VTA on their intention to purchase the rail rights as

part of the BART project. The VTA would request City participation in this buy-out. A cost of the rail buy-out has not been disclosed to the City from the VTA as of yet.

- The Transportation Subcommittee directed staff to begin discussions with the developers in the Piper/Montague area in efforts to get them to pay for the cost of purchasing the railroad delivery right of customers northeast of the wye.

6. BART Design Status Update

- City Staff Greg Armendariz updated the Subcommittee on the BART project.
- The last time the City Council received an update on the project was last April 2005 with the Dixon Landing Alignment option. Community meetings were held prior to the Council meeting asking the public to review the options of Dixon Landing at Grade with BART under was the original preferred or Dixon Landing Road under an at-grade BART line. Staff had advised the VTA they would be open to explore BART at Grade, with Dixon under, however Council had concerns about the option which included 1) construction impacts with the closure of Dixon and 2) ongoing operational costs the City would incur with a required pump station (initial costs of the pump station and operating and maintenance costs thereafter).
- Since then, the VTA has gone into hiatus as they are working on the supplemental environmental document to include alternatives to the previously approved EIR. The supplemental was supposed to be completed in January 2006 but it was postponed to an unmentioned date.
- VTA is continuing forward with the 35% design of the BART line. Staff is reviewing and has made several comments.
 - VTA continues to show the road closure for Dixon landing Road. In schematic, Dixon would be closed completely at the railroad tracks and also will close Milmont completely. The Fire department had concerns about access in the event of emergency
 - The pump station is another concern. The VTA proposes the new pump station to be located at the shopping center located on the southeast corner of Milmont and Dixon Landing. VTA has not addressed any of this.
- With several staff issues, VTA Staff Jack Collins, Chief Construction Officer and Jim Lawson, former Milpitas City Council and now Government Affairs Manager, will meet to discuss the City's concerns and reiterate what Council expressed.
 - Staff will question the VTA on the Montague Aerial option, as it was never presented to the City Council after the Dixon Landing Alignment option was presented.
 - There will be a discussion on the Montague Station parking garage location. The Crossings of Montague is on record of not supporting the parking garage adjacent to their property. Staff prefers the garage located adjacent to Montague Expressway.
- Vice-Mayor Gomez asked at what point does the Council request discussion at the VTA Board level? Mr. Armendariz stated that after discussions with the VTA staff next week, City staff will report if there is a need to bring this attention to the City Council and VTA Board. .

- Mayor Esteves also asked the course of action. Mr. Armendariz provided the following options:
 - Writing a letter through the City Council
 - Discussing City issues at the BART Policy Advisory Board, which Councilmember Livengood is a member and Vice Mayor Gomez is an alternate.
 - City Groupings meeting-Milpitas, Gilroy, and Morgan Hill (MGM). Since Milpitas does not have a seat, nor is an alternate, Vice Mayor Gomez meets monthly with Mayors of Morgan Hill and Gilroy to discuss VTA Board items.
 - Ultimately the City has to issue permits for any construction work in Milpitas
 - Legal action during the environmental process
- City Staff will provide updates on BART in upcoming Transportation Subcommittee meetings.

7. Traffic Signal Warrant Program FY 2005-2006

- Staff Jaime Rodriguez requested to defer until next as staff is collecting studies for a full report.

8. Other Business

All items under “Other Business” are for information and updates only. City staff will follow up on these items and possibly agendize for future meetings.

9. Set Time and Date for Next Meeting- Thursday, April 27, 2006

- Staff Janice Nadal stated the next meeting will have updates on the Transit Area Plan and the BART project.

10. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.